IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for preparing organic alkyne compounds of the formula I

$$X\text{-}C\equiv C\text{-}Y \quad (I)$$

by reacting organic halogen compounds of the formula Ia

$$X\text{-}Hal \quad (Ia),$$

with organic terminal alkyne compounds of the formula Ib

$$H\text{-}C\equiv C\text{-}Y \quad (Ib),$$

where X and Y are identical or different organic radicals

in inert solvents under the action of microwave energy,

in the presence of at least one metal compound and at least one base,

wherein Hal is chlorine or bromine.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of at least one metal compound ~~which comprises a metal~~ selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, iron, ruthenium, osmium, cobalt, rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, platinum, copper, silver, gold, zinc, cadmium, ~~and~~ mercury and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1 which is carried out in the presence of a copper compound.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein X and Y are identical or different and are each organic radicals which contain

saturated or unsaturated carbo– or heterocyclic radicals where both –Hal and H–C≡C– are bonded directly to said saturated or unsaturated carbo– or heterocyclic radicals.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein

X is a radical of the formula IIa

$$P^1\text{-}Y^1\text{-}(A^1\text{-}Y^3)_{m'}\text{-}(T^1\text{–}B^1\text{-})_m\text{-}T^3\text{-} \quad \text{(IIa)}$$

and

Y is a radical of the formula IIb

$$\text{-}T^4\text{-}(B^2\text{-}T^2\text{–})_n\text{-}(Y^4\text{-}A^2)_{n'}\text{-}Y^2\text{-}P^2 \quad \text{(IIb)}$$

where

P^1 and P^2 are each independently hydrogen, C_1–C_2-alkyl, a polymerizable group, a group suitable for polymerization or a radical which carries a polymerizable group or a group suitable for polymerization,

or

P^1 and/or P^2 each corresponds to a radical $P^{1'}$ and/or $P^{2'}$ which denotes a precursor group which is stable under the reaction conditions which can be reacted to give or be substituted by the corresponding polymerizable group or group suitable for polymerization P^1 and/or P^2 or the radicals ~~P^1~~ $P^{1'}$ and/or ~~P^2~~ $P^{2'}$ which carry a polymerizable group or a group suitable for polymerization,

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are each independently a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, –CO–, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, –O–CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O– or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

B^1 and B^2 are each independently a single chemical bond, -C≡C-, -O-, -S-, –CO–, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, –O–CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O– or

-(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

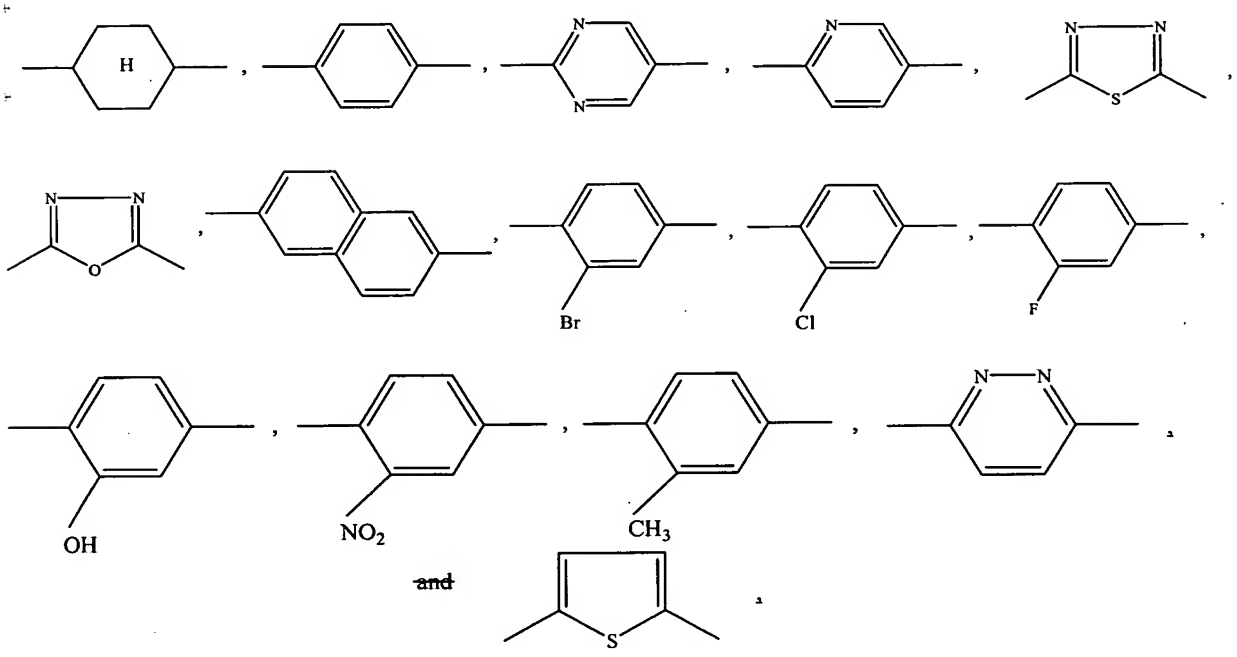
each R is, independently and irrespective of the meaning in each of Y^1 to Y^4, B^1 and B^2, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl,

A^1 and A^2 are each independently spacers having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms,

T^1, T^2, T^3 and T^4 are each independently bivalent, saturated or unsaturated, carbo– or heterocyclic radicals and

m', m, n' and n are each independently 0 or 1.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the T^1 to T^4 radicals in the formulae IIa and IIb are selected from the group consisting of



and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the inert solvent used is dimethylformamide or N–methyl-pyrrolidone or a mixture of the two.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the inert solvent used is dimethylformamide.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one base is a compound selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonates, alkali metal phosphates, ~~and~~ tri(C1—C4-alkyl)amines and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the base used is at least one alkali metal carbonate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the base used is potassium carbonate.